

Town Manager's Newsletter



Jodi Ross Town Manager 978-692-5500

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Flu/Pneumonia Clinic Schedule for the 2010-2011 Season:

Tuesday, Nov. 30: 6:00PM-8:00PM Millennium

MORE GOOD TRASH
NEWS... from the
Recycling Commission!
www.westfordma.gov/recycling

At the close of the first quarter of FY2011, we have sent 114 less tons of trash to the incinerator in this quarter than was sent in the first quarter of FY2010, thus saving the Town almost \$8,000 in tipping fees! When combined with the savings of \$12,150 (to date) due to the lower tipping fee for FY2011, the Town has already realized a savings of nearly \$20,000 dollars over this time last year.

Recycling tonnage is up 13 tons over quarter one of FY2010. Another successful electronics collection event in September, kept a 53 foot trailer load of electronic and electric items out of the waste stream as well.

We are doing well indeed!

Westings Online
Westings

www.westfordcat.org

Visit www.westfordma.gov for current news and information.

Dear Westford Residents,

November 2010

Our move back into the newly renovated and expanded Town Hall is scheduled the first week of December. I am receiving many positive comments regarding the exterior painting, which looks beautiful! The elevator has been installed, offices painted, carpet laid, wood work stained, and the interior is truly magnificent! Please stay tuned for details of our move and grand re-opening.

The Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee, town staff and I met last week to review the initial Fiscal Year 2012 budget. As we are anticipating another reduction in state aid, we are faced with challenges, particularly with funding the school budget request. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee members are meeting with department heads and me weekly to review the entire budget line-by-line, and examine any and all possibilities for additional revenue and expense reduction.

The Town Manager's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Message is available for viewing at: www.westfordma.gov/tm

Our Fall Special Town Meeting was held on October 18th. Below is a brief description of the actions of town meeting, which are also available on our website.

Article 1 approved funding to provide professional development training for department heads, additional legal funding to provide for litigation for the asphalt plant, and approved a transfer request from Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash to enable us to hire two paramedic/firefighters (one will replace a retiring fire lieutenant), also allowing us to receive additional revenues to help us to achieve departmental self-funding five years earlier than projected.

Article 2 was dismissed.

Article 3 approved an early retirement incentive program for eligible employees, enabling us to reduce our expenses by \$244,000 over the next 3 years.

Article 4 amended the Wage & Classification Plan for non-unionized municipal employees, adding two new position titles and reclassifying the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Director position.

Article 5 approved the transfers of \$13,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for replacement of the roof at the Technology building on E.Prescott Street, and \$20,000 from Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash for a Chest Compression System (CPR) machine and a Handheld Pulse CO-Oximeter (CO-Poisoning Detector).

Article 6 transferred approximately \$104,000 to pay possible costs of the construction to Town Hall, in the event they are needed. As of now the project is still under budget.

Article 7 balanced the Fiscal 2011 budget.

(Continued on page 2.)

Town Manager's Newsletter

Page 2 of 5

Dear Westford Residents.

Continued from page 1

Article 8 was dismissed.

Article 9 established two new revolving funds – one earmarking revenues received from the lease of town buildings: 65 and 73 Main Street and 170 Plain Road for the purpose of maintaining the buildings, and the second was for the Senior Center Fitness Room, to allow for payment of trainers and maintenance of fitness equipment.

Article 10 was dismissed.

Article 11 approved a new bylaw restricting the consumption of marijuana on public property.

Article 12 changed the annual Town Report to a fiscal year report instead of a calendar year report.

Article 13 was a citizen's petition, and successfully re-zoned a portion of the property located at 426 Littleton Road from residential to commercial.

Articles 14 through 20 accepted the following town roads as public ways: Vineyard Road, Tyler Road, Christy Lane Road, Swedes Crossing, Tavern Circle, Daniel Drive, and Elderberry Way.

Article 21 allowed the Council on Aging to convey to Thomas C. Dubey, Jr. and Patricia L. Dubey an easement over the driveway of the Senior Center property for the purposes of accessing their property.

Article 22 was dismissed.

Article 23 allowed the transfer of care, custody, control and management of the American Legion Ball Fields (Graniteville Ball Fields) on River Street from the School Committee to the Recreation Commission to be used for recreation purposes.

Article 24 approved the citizen's petition seeking to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the legislature for two additional liquor licenses for the Cornerstone development.

Thank you to all who helped us conduct town business. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Jodi Ros

Wireless Communication Facilities Project Overview



The Westford Board of Selectmen and Town Manager as part of their 2010 and 2011 goals, included the following:

"Redesign town's cell tower bylaw seeking input from residents and officials."

The Town of Westford, led by the Planning Board, Board of Appeals and Angus Jennings, Director of Land Use Management, is engaged in a policy initiative to study and update/revise the Town of Westford's Wireless Communication Facility (WCF) Zoning Bylaw.

Significant policy changes were enacted by the FCC in November 2009 with other changes anticipated to result from the recent National Broadband Plan. The Town understands the importance of providing a local regulatory framework that reflects this changing context while maximizing local opportunities to influence the location and architecture of WCF infrastructure.

This project is a next step in an ongoing process to periodically evaluate and revise the Westford WCF Bylaw to keep current with ongoing changes in the industry, technology and regulatory environment, and to ensure a local regulatory framework that reflects community policy priorities and is clear and enforceable.

The Town retained a consultant, David Maxson of Isotrope LLC, to support the Town's efforts, and the Director of Land Use Management is serving as project manager. The initiative will include combined efforts with other Town officials and staff, and a working group of citizen volunteers.

In addition to periodic updates at regularly scheduled meetings of various public Boards, the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals will hold two public workshops. The first workshop will take place on:

Tuesday, November 16 at 7 PM at the Blanchard School Auditorium

At that time, we will provide background research completed to date to inform community dialogue on the technical, aesthetic and legal aspects of this regulatory challenge. This meeting will also be recorded by Westford CAT, and made available for viewing both through local cable television and online.

A second public workshop will be held in January 2011, date TBD.

The Town is evaluating the potential to bring forward proposed amendments to the Westford Zoning Bylaw for consideration at a Town Meeting in March 2011.

A related article appeared in the November 4-10 edition of the Westford Eagle entitled Curbing Cell Towers.

A number of useful reference documents are included on the Town of Westford website at:

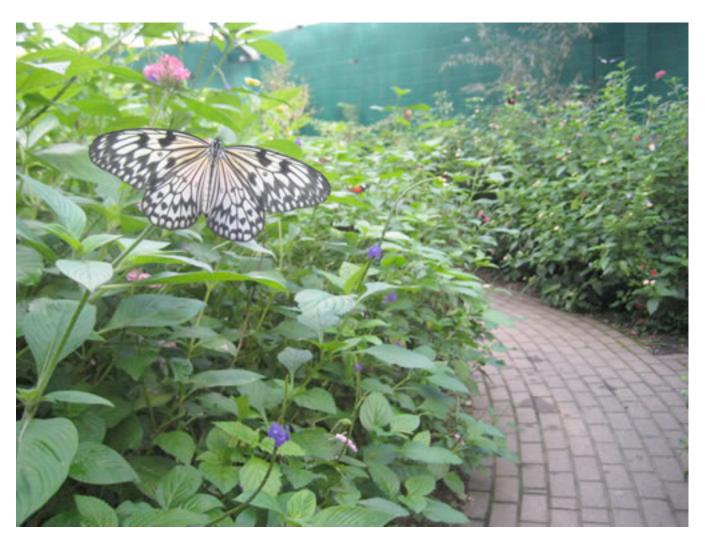
www.westfordma.gov/wca

This online resource will be updated with new information from time to time.

You can also subscribe to the WCA Documents by RSS feed in order to receive email notification every time new content is added to that page.



MMA Photo Contest Submission by Bill Turner - Conservation/Resource Planner



As fountains splash quietly in the background, a dazzling variety of butterflies flutter peacefully through the warm, humid air of the atrium, occasionally alighting next to you on a colorful flower. The Butterfly Place in Westford reminds us that among our great places are special, intimate spaces that provide an escape from our everyday routine and refreshment for our spirit.

Effective Leadership Development First Group Graduation





(Left to Right: Tom McEnaney, Police Chief; Chip Barrett, Highway Superintendent; Angus Jennings, Director of Land Use Management; Jodi Ross, Town Manager; Matt Hakala, Building Commissioner; Ellen Rainville, Library Director, Kaari Taari, Town Clerk; Pam Tebbetts, HR Director Sandy Collins, Health Director; Richard Rochon, Fire Chief; Bob Worthley, Water Superintendent; John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager)